various other Native States with the aim of bringing up the depressed communities to the same level as other communities. The poor people of Cochin are greatly fortunate in this case. Our reigning Highness is no less great a patron. I know His Highness is paying great attention to the progress of the depressed communities. I have great pleasure to congratulate His Highness on his receipt of G.C.I.E. on behalf of the communities I represent and myself.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, As leader of the House it is with feelings of extreme joy that I rise to join the chorus of congratulations to our beloved Maharaja on the conferment of the title of G. C. I. E. on him by His Majesty the King Emperor. This conferment of great honour especially at this time speeks volumes of the high appreciation on the part of His Majesty of His Highness' rule. Once again I share in the feelings of joy on an occasion like this and wish long life and prosperity to our beloved Maharaja. With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. President: On behalf of the Chair I wish to associate myself whole-heartedly with this resolution. All His Highness's subjects rejoiced at the news that His Imperial Majesty the King Emperor had recognised the noble qualities of our Ruler by confering on him the High distinction of Grand Cross of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, so soon after his accession.

His Highness has set us all a splendid example in his simplicity of living by his devotion to the welfare of his subjects, however humble they may be, and by his loyalty to the cause for which we are fighting. His Highness is a Prince who cares not for personal glory or for personal comfort, but cares greatly for the poor among his subjects who are suffering at this time. His Highness devotes himself to the task of doing all he can to mitigate the hard lot of the poor, and of ensuring that His State shall do all that is possible to hasten the end of the world struggle, which has brought so much misery in its train. His Majesty has honoured a Ruler who like himself lives not for self but for his people.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously all members standing.

Announcement of the names of the Panel of Chairmen

Mr. President: The following Members will constitute as panel of Chairmen. Mrs. A. N. Menon and Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.

Speech by the Member for Rural Development

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Mr. President, Sir, In addressing this House on the eve of the presentation of the second Budget since the assumption of office by me, I have a pleasant and onerous duty to perform, of placing before the Hon'ble Members a brief account of the administration of the Transferred Subjects for the current year with a forecast of the salient features designed for the year to come.

We have been passing through the most critical period in our history. With the thorny tentacles of a devastating war creeping into the vitals of our daily life and the battle of food already waged on our people still advancing with merciless and almost sickening onslaughts, the task of keeping the normal tempo of rural welfare is bound to be beset with difficulties of the most acute character. While looking back to the past with a sigh of relief, the future creates in us a sense of fear and hope, fear of still more difficult days to come and hope of tiding over them by united and sustained action. The reins of administration during the current year, as the House is aware, have been directed towards the solution of the most vital problem confronting the State, I mean, the food problem. To those who have been watching the trend of events in Cochin, it would be abundantly clear that Cochin owes a deep debt of gratitude to her Diwan, Mr. Dixon, for the transparent sincerity and extraordinary boldness evinced by him in tackling the food problem. A problem of such enormous magnitude can never be expected to be solved unless the co-operation of all branches of administration, as also of the public, is extended in an unreserved measure. It is only in the fitness of things that in this connection I extend to the people of Cochin my hearty congratulations for the patience with which they have been facing the food situation and the sympathy and co-operation they have shown to the schemes started by the Government in the direction of solving this problem. I could think of no better way of discharging the solemn trust placed in me than by tuning my departments to the solution of this all-important problem and augmenting the facilities for the production of more and more food stuffs in the State, thereby supplementing the efforts of the Diwan in this direction. The Minor Irrigation Scheme of which I had occasion to mention in my last budget speech was intended to serve as an important food production scheme. As you know, Rural Cochin had been suffering much in the past, especially in the dry months of the year, to get adequate irrigation facilities to protect her crops. When Burma was supplying us with enough rice, this urgent necessity was

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

not being felt so keenly as it is now. With the fall of Burma into enemy hands and the consequent scarcity of paddy and rise in its price, it has become a dire necessity to supply the deficiency. Therefore, out of the allotment under "Special Contribution" for Rural Development Departments, a sum of Rs. 1,70,000 was earmarked for improving minor irrigation facilities in the State this year. More than one hundred silted up irrigation tanks and channels have been restored and made useful for irrigation purposes. Large areas of wet lands, though in small holdings, depending entirely upon these tanks after the monsoon period for cultivation of second and third crops and which used to fail during summer for want of water, will be benefited largely due to the increased storage thus made available. The improvements thus effected in some cases have brought additional areas under cultivation. Due to the early and unexpected outbreak of the monsoon, it has not been possible to complete all the works as anticipated. It is expected that works to the extent of Rs. 1,50,000 will be completed this year. The remaining works will be completed early in 1119. The minor irrigation programme is proposed to be continued next year also. In the budget that is placed before you, a further allotment of Rs. 1,85,000 has been made for this. It is my hope that an all-State-wide minor irrigation scheme could thus be completed in a few years by making appropriate annual allotments towards this item.

Along with the question of minor irrigation, another factor that contributes towards the production of more food materials is the supply of manure, which is equally important, if not more, to the agricultural population. In the current year's budget there is a special allotment of Rs. 4,690 for starting manure depots in Panchayat areas. So far sixty-one depots have been opened and attempts are being made to open depots in the remaining Panchayats also. Manure worth about Rs. 35,000 has been purchased and distributed to the agriculturists in the current year. Orders have also been placed for the supply of manure worth about Rs. 24,000 and this is expected to arrive very shortly. The House will realise the magnitude of this work when they hear that the amount spent in 1117 for this purpose was only Rs. 5,900. Export of manure from the State had to be prohibited. Every attempt is being made to collect and stock all available quantity of manure. In pursuance of this scheme a sum of Rs. 1,35,000 has been included in the next year's Budget for the purchase of manure and implements. A new drive in the direction of growing more vegetables is proposed to be given in the coming year. Arrangements have been made in the Central Farm to grow vegetables on a large scale. This will be extended to the several gardens under the Agricultural Department. Seeds and seedlings have been distributed to the ryots on credit in large quantities. In recent times there had been an increased demand for the supply of grafts of the various fruit trees from the Central Farm. Every attempt will be made to meet this increased demand.

The dairy section in the Central Farm is being reorganised. For the improvement of cattle-breeding in rural areas it is proposed to station at least one pedigree bull in every Panchayat. Over and above the bulls stationed in the departmental institutions at Mulanthuruthy, Trippunithura, Vyttila, and Vadakkancheri and the 15 pedigree bulls stationed at different centres in the State, for which grants are paid from the Agricultural Department a sum of Rs. 5,000 has been specially ear-marked in the next year's Budget for providing bulls in 20 more centres. It is proposed to complete the programme of supplying bulls to all Panchayat areas in the course of a few years. A scheme is also being drawn up to train stockmen-compounders in the Veterinary Hospital at Trichur, who would afterwards be posted in rural areas to impart necessary instructions and render such veterinary aid as is possible.

I have attempted so far to place before the House some of the important directions in which I have tried to alleviate the shortage of food in the State. I can assure the House that no pains will be spared in making the departments entrusted to my care as useful as possible to help the State in tiding over a most difficult crisis.

Next to food comes clothing. Lack of large scale industries and facilities for the cultivation of cotton has rendered our State dependent on outsiders for the supply of clothes. Although there are inevitable difficulties in the way of finding a proper and effective solution for the problem of clothing in the State, one is bound to command all resources of the State as far as available and make the best out of the situation. Indigenous hand-loom weaving industry has been in existence in the State for a long time, weavers being scattered in several parts of the State. In my view these indigenous weavers were lacking in organised effort. I was thinking of a scheme whereby these weavers could be organised through the medium of co-operative societies. An attempt had already been made in this direction by starting Co-operative Societies of Weavers at Kunnathupalayam, Kuthampilli and Eravathodi. Loans were granted for their working and a paid Secretary was appointed in each to safeguard the interests of both the Government and the Society. When, therefore, these two deficiencies, namely, want of capital

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

and managing authority, were supplied, these societies thrived. The experiment was encouraging and it is proposed to extend this policy on a wider scale, and a sum of Rs. one lakh has been provided under advances recoverable for the purpose of giving loans to such societies. The Cochin Cottage Industries Co-operative Marketing Society at Trichur, which has a wider range of activity in finding out market for the cottage industrial products, can play an important role in the successful working of these organisations by collecting the products from these societies and finding a market for them. With a view to centralise the activities of these societies, they are being affiliated to the Co-operative Marketing Society. Besides a loan of Rs. 6,705, an advance of Rs. 50,000 has been made available for the purchase of yarn by the Marketing Society, which will be distributed to the several societies thus affiliated to it. In this connection I am glad to inform the House that the two major cotton mills in the State, The Cochin Textiles and the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, have agreed to supply about 100 bales of yarn at panel rates, and the supply has already begun. Though this will not satisfy our requirements in full, a portion at least of the population can be supplied with cheap cloth by this arrangement.

Personally, I am not satisfied with the working and usefulness of the present industrial schools. It is my honest conviction that if these industrial schools are re-organised on practical lines they will prove more serviceable to the public. An experiment was tried by my predecessor in 1116 by converting the Industrial school at Desamangalam into an Industrial Factory under the management of the local Co-operative Society. The one important result of this change is that apprentices trained in these factories will be absorbed by these societies after their term of apprentice course. As the experiment was found to be successful, this scheme was given a wider trial by handing over the Industrial School at Kunnamkulam to the Home Industrial Co-operative Society to be worked on the lines set forth above. The building and equipments and the services of the Headmaster and a masapady alone are lent to the Society. I am watching with interest the working of this arrangement also, and if this proves a success it will be possible to extend this policy to other schools. It is also my hope that by pursuing a policy like this it would be possible to divert many of the Credit Co-operative Societies now functioning in the State to a more useful line of action, facilitating thereby the development of subsidiary industries in the State, which will be a great help to the agricultural population as a part-time job.

The Committee appointed to enquire into the working of the Co-operative Movement in the State has not yet finished its work. The report of the Committee is expected to be received before the end of 1943.

An experiment in paper manufacture has been tried; and as the result is found encouraging, a sum of Rs. 2,600 has been invested for this. The industry is still in an experimental stage. If it proves successful, more encouragement will be given to it.

For exhibiting Cottage Industries products, an Industrial Museum is proposed to be opened at Trichur early next year.

The main purpose of starting the Rural Development Centre at Cherpu was to train our young men in Rural Development work and to engage them in Rural Development activities in their own villages. It was found that this purpose failed to be achieved. Therefore, it is proposed to convert the Rural Development Centre into a Rural Industrial Centre by organising various Cottage Industries through Co-operative Societies. Attention of the Hon'ble Members is invited in this connection to the Government Proceedings published in the Gazette in this behalf.

Of the several activities of the Rural Development Centre, Bee-keeping proved very successful and capable of being organised throughout the State on scientific and profitable lines. Five Organisers were appointed to popularise Bee-keeping, and they were attached to the All-Cochin Bee-keepers' Society at Trichur. This Society collects honey from individuals and associations, who are engaged in Bee-keeping Industry and finds a market for the honey thus collected. Its membership has increased from 74 in 1117 to 139 in 1118 and working capital from Rs. 680 to Rs. 2,500. While it purchased honey worth Rs. 383 in 1117, in 1118 it purchased honey for Rs. 3,000. The net profits of this Association has increased from Rs. 50 in 1117 to Rs. 600 in 1118. I feel sure that this Society would open up a vista of possibilities for this particular industry.

The Coir Depot at Mattancheri had been working at a loss; but during the year certain changes were effected in the management of the concern and it has begun to show signs of improvement. In the first 10 months of 1118, the Depot has made a net profit of Rs. 730, after providing for depreciation and interest on capital. The starting of sub-depots to work under the Central Depot has also been under consideration. One such depot has been opened

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

at Vyttila. The working of the sub-depot has been entrusted to the Thaikudam Gramodharana Co-operative Society. An advance of Rs. 250 has also been placed at the disposal of the Society, and its working is being watched.

Extension of medical aid through the ancient and indigenous system of Ayurveda has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. A large section of our people believe in the efficacy of this oriental system of treatment. My intention is to encourage and expand the activities of this department and to make its services available to the rural population to the utmost possible extent. A Sales Section attached to the Rama Varma Central Ayurvedic Hospital has been started this year. Medicines are manufactured on a large scale and sold at reasonable prices. One Depot has already been opened at Ernakulam this year. My idea is to open depots in every Panchayat and Municipal area. When the central manufacturing section is able to prepare larger quantities of medicines, more depots will be opened. Five more Ayurvedic Hospitals, one for each Taluk, are proposed to be started next year. In addition to these, an In-patient Ward with 10 beds at Viyyur aud six Vaidyasalas in villages are also proposed to be opened. It deserves special mention in this connection that a generous donation of Rs. 10,000 has been given to Government by Sir K. Ramunni Menon and his sister Sry. K. Lekshmikutty Amma for opening a Vaidyasala at Villadam. This also will be opened next year.

Early this year Trichur and the surrounding places were threatened with plague in an epidemic form. Thanks to the vigorous anti-infection measures and propaganda work carried on systematically and immediately with the help and co-operation of the Municipality, the disease was brought under control within a short period. Now cholera is spreading to some of the outlying villages. Every effort is being made to check the spread of the disease. Regular inoculation and other anti-infection measures have already been started. With a view to adopt prompt and effective measures, one Medical Officer has been posted to each of the sanitary divisions. Steps have also been taken to organise a Village Vigilance Commtttee in every village. It is expected that the situation will be brought under control within a few days.

The rural midwifery service is being extended gradually to all the Panchayat areas. Including the ten newly appointed this year there are 67 rural midwives attached to Panchayats. In the next year's budget provision has been made to train 10 more hands. Within another year it is expected that it will be possible to provide each Panchayat with at least one trained midwife.

One of the important reforms proposed by me during the last Budget Session of this Council was to give more powers to the Panchayats by giving each Panchayat the right to prepare its own budget in respect of the original works within its jurisdiction. A sum of Rs. 52,009 was set apart for this purpose. These allotments have been distributed by the Panchayats on the basis of a Five-year Plan to avoid wastage of money and to keep up the continuity of policy in the execution of works. The reform thus introduced was of an experimental character. I am glad to state that the Panchayats have discharged the trust placed in them with a due sense of responsibility and I take this opportunity to offer my hearty congratulations to them. Most of the Panchayats have completed the works with unequalled enthusiasm and at considerable sacrifice, thereby benefiting the public in a great measure. It is a matter of supreme gratification to me to note that this salutary experiment has met with more than ordinary success, and I think it is only proper that the Panchayats are taken more and more into confidence in matters of administration.

The Village Courts Act passed by this Council in Meenam last, became law on the 15th of Medam 1118. 35 Panchayat Courts have been re-constituted into Village Courts in accordance with this law. Frequent representations are received by the Government for the opening of new courts in the remaining villages. To enable these villagers to take advantage of the Village Courts, it is proposed to start 12 more courts in the coming year. A lump allotment of Rs. 8,000 has been made for the purpose. When these are started all the villages in the State will be enjoying the benefits of the Village Courts Act.

In a few selected Panchayats, a beginning has been made this year to instal radio sets. This will be continued next year also, for which provision has been made in the Budget.

The experiment of fitting tube-wells in littoral tracts was not found to be a success. These wells were able to supply potable water from a certain level. But when the quantity available at that strata was exhausted, water became brackish. Hence another attempt at sinking small experimental wells is being tried this year. The results can be known only by next summer. The balance in the non-lapsable allotment of Rs. 5,000 in the current year's Budget will be utilised for sinking more wells, if the experiment proves a success.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The Depressed Class Department was being worked on the same lines as those of last year. The number of collegiate concessions to the Depressed Class students has been raised from ten to twenty. Increased provision has been made in the next Budget for the supply of school requisites, for feeding charges and for the maintenance of Depressed Class hostels.

Twenty additional rural libraries have been started this year, making the total number of libraries 163. Next year 20 more libraries will be started for which funds have been provided in the budget.

The Land Mortgage Bank was transferred to the Ministerial portfolio during the current year. The activities of this institution are being continued on the very lines as in the past. Loans to the extent of Rs. 1,96,000 were disbursed during the year. When compared to last year's disbursement there is a remarkable fall in the demand for loans. It is indicative of the better prosperity of the agricultural population.

I will be failing in my duty, if before I conclude, I do not express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble Members of this House for the unreserved co-operation they have extended to me in the administration of the Transferred Subjects. The criticisms which this House has been pleased to offer have been of great help to me in the administration of the subjects entrusted to my care to the maximum advantage of the public of Cochin. It is my fervent hope that this spirit of healthy correction and co-operation will be continued in future.

No one knows how long the difficult days Governments and people are passing through, are going to confront us. Fortunately, recent events in the theatres of war indicate a beginning of the end. Let us hope that these days of stress and strain will be successfully tided over by the hearty co-operation between the public and the Government, and that ere long we can enjoy the blessings of a victorious peace.

Announcement of Bills assented to by His Highness the Maharaja

Secretary to the Council: Under Standing Order 5 I have to announce that His Highness the Maharaja has been pleased to give his assent to the following Bills.—

1. The Cochin Village Courts Bill.
2. The Cochin Registration of Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act Amendment Bill.

Placing of Statement of Expenditure

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)* :

Sir,

Under Rule 58 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under section 28-1 (c) of the Government of Cochin Act, 1113.

Sl. No.	Head of Account	Amount Rs.	A.	P.	Remarks
1	17—Central Jail—Diet of Prisoners	15,000	0	0	Owing to the increase in the number of prisoners and the increased cost of dietary articles the budget allotment was found insufficient and additional grant had to be made urgently
	Do. Miscellaneous	2,500	0	0	
2	16—Law and Justice—C-Criminal Justice T.A.	900	0	0	Increased tours and camps of the District Magistrate and his staff caused on account of the political disturbances in the State and in connection with the checking of the Cochin Cyclone Relief Lottery Tickets
3	17—Central Jail—Uniforms of Warders	225	0	0	No provision could be originally made as temporary warders for whom the expenditure was incurred were appointed urgently in the course of the year
4	1—Land Revenue—Temporary Establishment	193	0	0	The additional allotment had to be urgently sanctioned to meet the pay, T.A., etc., of the temporary staff appointed for the renewal of Sirkar Jenm lands in Palghat Taluk, whose term was extended to complete the work

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly